

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 22, 2009. Claims 1, 3 to 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 and 36-38 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a recent telephonic interview. During that interview, the current amendments to the claims were discussed; however, no agreement regarding the claims was reached during the interview. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment and following remarks constitute the entire substance of the interview.

Claims 1, 3 to 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,154,733 (Pierce) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,877,093 (Desai). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device, said method implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device. The method includes the steps of obtaining (504) a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by the user; determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with the user; obtaining a peripheral device identification

data item from the request; determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral device identification data item obtained, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from the user, wherein the determining step further includes a limiting step of limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user; and sending (516) the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by the user.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, namely Pierce and Desai, whether considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of determining user characteristics as a function of a user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user and determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of a peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the determining further comprises limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user.

In contrast to the present invention, Pierce discloses a postage printing system including a computer, a data center and a control system. In Pierce, a user is allowed to create a user data profile file 205 associated with a particular user and stored in the user database 204 10 is shown. Generally, a user data profile 205 is established for each of the individual user accounts and allows each user to set parameters for controlling third party advertising on their respective envelopes 20. (See Pierce Column 6, lines 54 to 60). Furthermore, Pierce is seen to disclose an

ad data profile file 207 associated with a third party message to be printed on the envelope 20 by the postage printing system 10 is shown. The ad data includes: graphic image data 207a; subsidy rate data 207b; billing rate data 207c and restriction data. The restriction data may include sender restriction data, addressee restriction data and non-addressee (quantitative) restriction data, or any combination of types of restriction data. Preferably, the addressee restriction data includes: geographic quantitative data 207d and recipient restriction data 207e. Preferably, the non-addressee restriction data includes: date restriction data 207f; multi-ad restriction data 207g; and ad space restriction data 207g. (See Column 8, line 41 to Column 9, line 14).

However, Pierce fails to disclose or suggest determining user characteristics as a function of a user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user and determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of a peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the determining further comprises limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user, as featured in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Desai discloses a system and method for secure provisioning of a transaction processing device. According to Desai, each transaction processing device has an ID, which is generated during the manufacturing of the device. (See Desai, column 11, lines 40 to 45.) In particular a subscriber, such as a merchant, updates configuration information about the transaction processing device. Firstly, the subscriber logs onto the website hosted by the provider, utilizing user name and password, that is to say some user identification information. After authentication, the server presents the subscriber a list of terminals associated with the user

name. Next, in a further step, the subscriber selects one or more terminals. (See Desai column 13, lines 1 to 20.)

However, Desai fails to disclose or suggest determining user characteristics as a function of a user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user and determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of a peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the determining further comprises limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user, as featured in Claim 1.

Therefore, even if Pierce and Desai were combined, which Applicants do not concede is permissible, the combination would fail to disclose or suggest determining user characteristics as a function of a user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user and determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of a peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the determining further comprises limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user.

In light of these deficiencies in Pierce and Desai, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Independent Claims 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are directed to devices that implement the method of Claim 1 and further include various other features. Accordingly, Applicants

submit that Claims 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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